



MANCHESTER-HOOKSETT-BOW
STATE 13917 FEDERAL X-A000(112)
NH3A FEASIBILITY STUDY

Meeting #1 Notes

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

7:00PM

NHDOT

Concord, New Hampshire

Members Present: Charles Watson (Town of Hooksett), Amanda Arnold (Central NH Regional Planning Commission), Christopher Northrop (NH Office of Energy and Planning), Hiram Morrill (NHDOT District 5), Carolyn Russell (NH Dept. of Environmental Services), William O'Donnell (Federal Highway Administration),

Members Absent: (City of Manchester), (Town of Bow), (Southern NH Regional Planning Commission), (NH Division of Historic Resources)

Staff: Michael Pillsbury (NHDOT), Tom Errico (Wilbur Smith Associates)

1. Welcome & Introductions – Michael Pillsbury

Mike gave a brief introduction into the project specifics.

2. Project Presentation – Tom Errico

The presentation consisted of the following:

- A Mission Statement that comprised of: “The purpose of the project is to perform a feasibility study and preparation of a conceptual plan for improvements to NH 3A. The study will look at broad transportation system needs and other factors that may influence the needs specific to the project area, and establish a range of practicable alternatives for future development of preliminary engineering plans and formal environmental documentation. As part of this feasibility study, the Consultant will develop a conceptual plan for improvements to NH 3A for an ultimate implementation, and develop interim projects, which can be implemented and will be consistent with the ultimate concept.”
- Project Management and Consultant Team Roles.
- A review of the study area, which comprises of the entire NH 3A corridor from the Exit 7 interchange of I-293 in Manchester to the Bow/Concord municipal boundary.

- Study objectives which consisted of: 1) Develop Purpose and Need Statement; 2) Identification of safety and congestion improvements for both short and long term; 3) Evaluation of improvement strategies; and 4) Recommended Strategies.
- Tom gave a summary of the contents and importance of the Purpose and Need statement including: Specific Goals and Objectives of the Project; Evaluation of the range of possible improvements; and to be used by State and Federal Regulatory Agencies to advance the project improvements through the next Federal/State permitting phases.
- Tom noted that the scope of work would generally comprise of: Data Collection, Mapping & Analysis; Alternatives Development and Evaluation; and Recommendations.
- The study Outreach & Coordination Process will include: Advisory Committee meetings (up to 10); Public Meetings (up to 9 Community meetings); Resource Agency Meetings (up to 4 meetings); and Technical Committee meetings (through study).
- The Advisory Committee will comprise of individuals from: City of Manchester; Town of Hooksett; Town of Bow; Central NH Regional Planning Commission; Southern NH Regional Planning Commission; NH Office of Energy and Planning; NH Division of Historic Resources; NHDOT District 5; NH Department of Environmental Services; and Federal Highway Administration.
- Tom summarized the traffic collection program in detail. He noted that it was anticipated to be conducted in early summer and that we will be seeking input from the communities and the public on what locations to be counted. The count program will include:
 1. Traffic Counts and Vehicle Classification (10 Locations for 48-hour Period and 4 Weekend Locations)
 2. Intersection Turning Movement Counts (Up to 12 Weekday during AM and PM and 4 Saturday)
 3. Travel Time & Delay Surveys (Weekday AM and PM)
 4. Speed Surveys at Four Locations
 5. Crash/Accident Data
- The project schedule is anticipated to last for approximately 18 months. Data Collection, Mapping & Analysis in underway and should be completed by the end of summer of 2004. Alternatives Development and Evaluation will begin in the Fall of 2004 with completion during the winter of 2005. Recommendations will be developed in late winter of 2005 with final report conclusions at the end of summer 2005.

- Next steps include; public meetings in April; next AC meeting in May; mapping and data collection; development of draft purpose and need statement.

3. Questions during or after the presentation included the following.

- Charles Watson noted that electronic aerial mapping is available in Hooksett for the project's use.
- Charles further summarized some of the significant development proposals the Town is dealing with.
- Charles noted that they recently completed a Master Planning process for the Town and that information will provide some good guidance.
- Bill O'Donnell noted that for the initial public meeting traffic volume data should be presented for informational purposes.
- Bill suggested that photographs of existing deficiencies in the corridor as a way to frame issues is suggested for the initial public meeting.
- Chris Northrop summarized the differences between a feasibility study and a corridor study.
- It was concluded that the Advisory Committee should reconvene prior to the public meeting with a possible agenda of reviewing public meeting presentation material and drafting a Purpose and Need statement. It was tentatively scheduled that the Advisory Committee would meet on April 13th at 4:00pm at NHDOT.

Action Items

- ❑ WSA will obtain aerial mapping from the Town of Hooksett.
- ❑ WSA will obtain a copy of the Hooksett Master Plan.
- ❑ WSA will prepare material for the public meeting, which will include photographs of deficiencies and existing available traffic data.
- ❑ The next Advisory Committee Meeting will be on April 13th at 4:00pm at NHDOT.